

# INDEXA



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Daily Information Session — 14.236 MHz @ 23:30z

## ***My Adventure In 3C0M—DXpedition ANNOBÓN ISLAND 2006***

***By: Anselmo (Elmo) Bernabe Coll, EA5BYP***

**T**oday is Saturday, November 4, 2006, and I am still on the island. Yesterday, Friday the third, at 0945 UTC, I ended the DXpedition; my last contact was with SP2CA on 15 meters SSB. From the Bata control tower, they informed me that my plane was going to pick me up around 1300 UTC. I still had a lot of work ahead of me—pick up and pack all my equipment and disassemble the antennas.

But suddenly, which is not unusual in this part of Africa, the skies darkened completely and a strong storm of wind and rain appeared and lasted all day. The rainy season has started in Annobón, which is one of the wettest places on earth this time of year. For this reason the airplane couldn't land on the island.

Coming to Annobón hasn't been easy, since, at the moment, it is a restricted zone in Equatorial Guinea. In 2004, my good friend and expedition

companion, Vic, EA5YN, and I traveled to Malabo where we had several meetings with different Governmental Ministries to discuss Ham Radio issues. Due to these meetings we man-



aged to obtain permission to operate in Annobón as 3C0M.

We were all ready to travel in October – November this year but at the last minute Vic, for personal reasons, could not join the expedition. After talking about it we decided that I would travel alone, since everything was ready and we couldn't turn back.

On October 18 I left from Alicante and traveled via Madrid, Malabo, and finally Bata where I would wait for my departure to Annobón. The plan was to

spend a day in Malabo, where representatives from the Communications and National Security Ministry were waiting for me at the airport to give me all the original documentation relevant to the DXpedition. Here, I would like to thank them for the many courtesies extended to me.

In Alicante, due to the amount of excess baggage I was carrying and to the strict security measures implemented at the airport, I had to overcome a

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**inside...** *Help INDEXA out with mailing costs  
“unofficial” meeting of INDEXA leaders*

## My Adventure in 3COM (Con'd)

(Continued from page 1)

number of small difficulties. Finally, I left with great anticipation. Physically and emotionally I was in great shape and quite aware, due to previous experiences, that if an emergency arises in the island, help is very far away. There are no regular flights nor ships, so it is important to prepare very well for every contingency when traveling to such a remote place as Annobon.

The first days were very difficult. I had developed a case of fever and chills, but it didn't keep me from being on the air three hours after arriving on the island. My plan was to spend the first week on the higher bandwidth modes and leave RTTY for later.

My equipment consisted of Kenwood and Yaesu transceivers, a linear amplifier, a TNC, a yagi antenna, several dipoles, an antenna coupler, two power supplies and a generator.

The baggage handlers broke my yagi antenna in Bata. I used the remaining pieces to rebuild it and it turned out quite well. Despite my temporary repairs, all reports I got while using it were very good.

Once all was repaired, and 3COM was ready to go on the air, I realized how much I missed my good DXpedition friend, Vic, since I had to do his work as well as mine, HI.

As is typical of all expeditions of this nature, problems are never limited to items broken or damaged in the process of getting



**Arrival in Bata with my equipment. Travel to remote places with much equipment is always a challenge for the DXer.**

to your destination. The ever-present high humidity because of the rainy season caused repeated problems with the electric generator. I had to stop operating a number of time to dry out the generator.

The roofs of the houses in Annobón are made of metal sheets, and tended to detune my antennas. I had to change operating shacks until I could find a proper location. Even then, propagation on some bands was not possible. I operated at different times on 10 m and 12 m, but only obtained a few openings, mainly with Europe. At various times I tried contacts with VK and ZL on 20m, the best hour we had was 0600 UTC, but I wasn't very lucky there either. I realized a total of 10,960 QSOs on 7 bands using three modes. My first contact was with SP6KEP using 15 m SSB.

I wanted to dedicate the second week mostly to the lower

bands, and this is where the first rains started. Also the QRM and QRN increased. I installed antennas for 40m, then 80m and finally

installed the one for 160m. I tried several times because I was aware many people were waiting for their opportunity on these bands, but it was very difficult. I managed a few QSOs on 160m, with people that had previously arranged it to test propagation and proper timing. I had to change the 160m antenna twice. The first time, the storm broke its supports and I couldn't repair it

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that night in the dark. Later, I found an ideal placement, with good reception but luck was not on my side.

On the island they have baptized me with the name Zankus D'Awal, the man who is always working on the radio—that I'm always busy. HI, HI. This is a name I'll always fondly remember.

As might be expected on an island, my food consisted of fish, rice and fruit. But I was in for a surprise. On the second day on the island, I heard shouting. Everybody was running towards the beach where the men, in their fragile canoes, were hunting a whale. This is the time of year where whales appear near the island, sometimes a few meters from shore.

The fight between man and this animal is worthy of a movie. The meat of this animal is very important and

every part of the animal is put to good use, so that everybody in town was able to take some of the meat home to their families. Even I was given some to eat the next day.

I want to thank all those who had confidence in me and all those who helped to make this dream come true – the DXpedition to Annobón 2006.

Major sponsorship came from: Northern California Foundation, **INDEXA**, DX Lovers Foundation, GM DX Group, Clipperton DX Club, Danish DX Group, GDXF, SWODXA, EUDXF, Tokyo 610 DX Group, Lynx DX Group, JR2KDN, The Daily DX, and Milwaukee DX Association.

As I await to leave the island, I am happy. I think that the work has been successful except for one not achieving my expected number of contacts on the lower frequency bands. I am hopeful that our work and effort of working with the An-

Spain. I am now at the Malabo Airport where I'm waiting to leave for Madrid in a few hours.

I am very tired and I am getting hungry, but my heart is happy—glad to have been to Annobón and to have given a “new one” to many friends from around the world.

Until the next time,  
73, from Elmo EA5BYP/3C0M

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### **Help INDEXA, Help DX!**

Postage costs seem to be rising all around the world. The United States Postal Service has announced an across-the-board postage increase for early May, 2007. A friend in the UK recently advises he'll soon be faced with higher postal costs, too.

**INDEXA** faces those same rising costs. Every cent we spend on delivering a hard copy of the newsletter to our members is money we cannot spend on supporting DXing activity.

If you have an email account, please agree to take the **INDEXA** newsletter in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. You'll get the newsletter sooner as an email attachment, and be able to view it (and print it) in full color using an Acrobat Reader, available as a free download.

Notify Bill Jennings (W4UNP) at the email address shown on Page 2 if you'd like to help **INDEXA** help DXing.

—The **INDEXA** Editor



***A diet of fish is always to be expected on an island. It was no different on Annobón***

nobón authorities will be compensated by the further opening of Ham Radio in this country.

Now, I resume writing this “log” on Monday, November 6. I finally said goodbye to the island yesterday, but unfortunately I missed my connecting flight to



## An "unofficial" Gathering of INDEXA Leadership

In early March, the annual Charlotte Hamfest (NC) offered an opportunity for several members of the INDEXA leadership team to meet each other face to face. Bob Allphin (K4UEE), Chairman of the INDEXA Board of Directors, was in attendance at Charlotte to give a presentation on his recent trip to Lakshadweep. Gary Dixon (K4MQG), INDEXA Vice-President, regularly checks DXCC cards at Charlotte. Bill Jennings (W4UNP), INDEXA Secretary-Treasurer, and John



*Pictured above (left to right) are: Gary Dixon, Bill Jennings, John Scott, and Bob Allphin*

Scott (K8YC), INDEXA Editor were present to hear K4UEE's presentation, meet old friends and make a few purchases.

The group is pictured to the left. Perhaps next year Ron Wright (ZL1AMO), Nellie de Lazard (XE1CI), Franz Langner (DJ9ZB), and Richard Grant (W9RG) will be in the neighborhood and "drop in" so we can have a picture of the entire leadership team. Who knows, maybe even the INDEXA net controllers will show up!

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